

Longest String Chain (View)

You are given an array of `words` where each word consists of lowercase English letters.

`worda` is a **predecessor** of `wordb` if and only if we can insert **exactly one** letter anywhere in `worda` **without changing the order of the other characters** to make it equal to `wordb`.

- For example, `"abc"` is a **predecessor** of `"abac"`, while `"cba"` is not a **predecessor** of `"bcad"`.

A **word chain** is a sequence of words `[word1, word2, ..., wordk]` with $k \geq 1$, where `word1` is a **predecessor** of `word2`, `word2` is a **predecessor** of `word3`, and so on. A single word is trivially a **word chain** with $k = 1$.

Return the **length** of the **longest possible word chain** with words chosen from the given list of `words`.

Example 1:

Input: `words = ["a","b","ba","bca","bda","bdca"]`

Output: 4

Explanation: One of the longest word chains is `["a","ba","bda","bdca"]`.

Example 2:

Input: `words = ["xbc","pcxbcf","xb","cxbc","pcxbc"]`

Output: 5

Explanation: All the words can be put in a word chain `["xb", "xbc", "cxbc", "pcxbc", "pcxbcf"]`.

Example 3:

Input: `words = ["abcd","dbqca"]`

Output: 1

Explanation: The trivial word chain `["abcd"]` is one of the longest word chains.

`["abcd","dbqca"]` is not a valid word chain because the ordering of the letters is changed.

Constraints:

- `1 <= words.length <= 1000`
- `1 <= words[i].length <= 16`
- `words[i]` only consists of lowercase English letters.